

Additional Ecology and Countryside response for DC/22/94340 Land to east of Stoneham Lane, south of Kingdom Hall, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh, SO50 9HQ

Discharge of condition 4 (eradication/management of Himalayan/Indian balsam) of planning permission F/20/88820 for proposed scheme for nitrate removal and net biodiversity gain through ecological enhancements, creation of ponds and associated works.

Dawn Errington

13/2/23

We have reviewed the additional information submitted by Environment Controls Ltd (7/2/23). The following information needs to be reviewed before condition 4 can be discharged:

Please can Highwood supply original full resolution copies of images 1 and 2 and an updated proposed development plan of the site (so that the captions can be read) with details of the Japanese Knotweed Limited proposed works and any re-modelling required to accommodate the proposed bund. As previously mentioned, the presence of the bund will change the volume of water that can be held in the pond and the amount of nitrates that it would be able to remove. The presence of the bund needs to be accounted for in the drainage plans.

As mentioned in the additional information, this would include adjustment of plans to enhance the vegetation on the eastern boundary with trees and native shrubs.

The active monitoring and control of Himalayan Balsam on this land and the land and banks of Monks Brook needs to continue for as long as it takes, otherwise it will act as a seed source in perpetuity for land downstream. This should be secured via the planning process on this site. As eradication is not an aim of the management plan, Highwood should confirm this in place in perpetuity not just for the 5-year monitoring plan as proposed.

We need to see clarification of how the planning process will secure the whole site and the bund in a programme of monitoring and herbicide treatment so that there is no risk to neighbouring sites or any areas downstream as a result of the works being done on this site.

Lisa Malter, Ecologist and Rachel Hardy, Countryside Manager